

## REMARKS

### *Status of Claims*

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 16, 17, 20-22, and 25-36 are currently pending in the application.

Of the pending claims, claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 16, 17 and 20-22 are allowed and claims 25-36 have been rejected.

Applicants have currently amended claims 25 and 31.

Accordingly, Applicants hereby request further examination and reconsideration of the presently claimed application in light of the amendments and the following remarks.

### *Placing Subject Matter in Condition for Allowance*

First, Applicants would like to thank the examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter (claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 16, 17, and 20-22) on page 3 of the Office Action of August 6, 2008, as well as for the guidance offered on pages 2 and 3 of the office action regarding the need for additional language in claims 25 and 31 detailing how the elements interrelate. Applicants wish to place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 25 and 31 as suggested by the examiner, positively detailing the interaction between elements. For claim 25, the amendment further explains that each driver is operatively connected to the corresponding strap guide track, such that the driver feeds strapping through the corresponding strap drive track and into the corresponding strap fastener for fastening into a closed loop. And for claim 31, the amendment explains that each strap driver is operatively connected with a corresponding strap guide track and a corresponding strap fastener, such that the driver feeds strapping through the corresponding strap drive track and into the corresponding

strap fastener for fastening into a closed loop. These amendments should clarify the manner in which the elements interrelate.

Applicants apologize for any unintended confusion, and feel that these claim amendments should clear matters up by addressing the examiner's concerns regarding definiteness. Since these definiteness concerns were the only reason for rejection of claims 25 and 31 (and since claims 26-30 are dependent upon claim 25 and claims 32-36 are dependent upon claim 31), Applicants respectfully request that the application now be found in condition for allowance with claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 16, 17, 20-22, and 25-36.

**CONCLUSION**

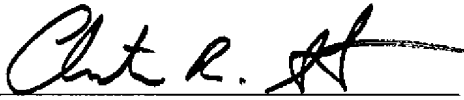
Consideration and entry of the foregoing amendments and remarks, and reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested by Applicants. No new matter is introduced by way of the amendments. It is believed that these amendments place claims 25-36 in condition for allowance as suggested by the examiner, while claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 16, 17, and 20-22 have already been allowed by the examiner. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that this application move to issuance with claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 16, 17, 20-22, and 25-36 as amended. If any fee is due as a result of the filing of this paper, please appropriately charge such fee to Deposit Account Number 50-1515 of Conley Rose, P.C., Dallas, Texas. If a petition for extension of time is necessary in order for this paper to be deemed timely filed, please consider this a petition therefore.

If a telephone conference would facilitate the resolution of any issue or expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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